

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HIPAA

HIPAA

HIPAA is America's Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Congress approved it in 2003 in order to protect the privacy of patients while allowing patients easier access to their medical files. It also allows you to change incorrect information in your files more quickly.

1. You have the right to review your medical files, and your provider has 30 days after your request to provide you that opportunity. The law also allows you to correct errors in your files.
2. HIPAA also requires that health care professionals give you a notice of privacy, which informs you how your medical files will be used. You, as a patient, are required to sign this notice and write down who is allowed to access your files -- for example, a spouse or a parent.
3. HIPAA prevents outside sources from examining your medical files -- for example, banks, insurance companies, and other businesses. This federal privacy act does not allow patient information to be used for attempts to market products.
4. HIPAA makes all discourse between you and your physician confidential. Your health care provider must keep any and all health care concerns or diseases private and cannot disclose sensitive patient information in a voicemail message or email message.



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